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Front Edit Other
Page Page Page

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Backtalk:

Is U. S. Pursuing A Feudal Policy?

New light has been thrown on our tragic fiasco in South Vietnam by Hoang Van Chi, a democratic North Vietnam patriot who fled Communist rule in 1955, and whose book, *From Colonialism to Communism: a Case History of North Vietnam*, has recently been published in New York by Praeger.

When the Americans took over Saigon from the French, they found an anti-Communist "educated" and "Christian" administration and army which persuaded their new masters, and informed CIA agents, that all those who had been on the other side in the Viet Minh war were hardened Communists.

The naive Americans, who felt that any anti-Communist thing must be good, threw their political, financial, and military support behind a feudalistic, unpatriotic, undemocratic, citified regime whose main concern was to hang onto their own power against democratic opposition from within South Vietnam. (We should know that the people are mostly Buddhist peasants.)

The North Vietnam author advises that the U. S. abandon

its hopeless policy of supporting the status quo in a rapidly changing world, and encourage the Buddhists and students, who really represent the people, to install a democratic and reform government which will take away any occasion for the Communist-type of reform.

As Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas has persistently urged, we should be pro-democratic, instead of anti-Communist, all over the world.

What do we gain by supporting undemocratic regimes? They are the ones that, while receiving our gifts, tell us to go jump in the lake. Actually, undemocratic regimes are easy for Communists to topple or buy. Only real democracy is proof against Communism.

Let's push for peace and democracy in Vietnam, in the Congo, in Cuba, in Germany, in China — everywhere in the world. Yes, it will be a long, hard push. It will take our best brains. But in no other way can we win.

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